International Conference

The Old and the New Indenture: Labour Practices and Human Rights

Abstract & Programme Booklet

An E-Conference
09-11 October 2021
www.globalgirmitinstitute.org

To Register:

- 1. Click on:
 - https://events.zoom.us/eo/ADs0EqizH-O62_FH00oQu_BBl6qIIIGCRc2XthcNVUEMR3UAllx31WSIE0DahmZyqL7erM
- 2. This will take you to: https://zoom.us/signin
- 3. If you do not have an account with zoom, click on "SIGN UP, IT'S FREE" icon (you can also sign in using your google account, or facebook account, etc)
- 4. Once you sign in, it will take you to the Events page.
- 5. On the events page, click on "Day 1" for day 1's registration.
- 6. You will then see an icon to register.



- 7. You can then confirm your registration purchase (its free
- 8. Daily registration is required. You can register for all 3 days in advance.
- 9. The Zoom clock is 24 hour clock; a date ends at midnite. Our conference would continue (Fiji) time into the next day. Thus the papers which are scheduled after midnight on Saturday evening, would be accessible for the registration for Sunday (10th)
- 10. If there are difficulties, please contact: ggi.officeggi@gmail.com.

Contents

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE - The Old and the New	
Indenture: Labour Practices and Human Rights 9 – 11 Octo	
2021	
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION	9
Official Opening: Hon. Premila Kumar, Minister for Education, Her & Arts, Government of Fiji.	_
Keynote Address: Sir Anand Satyanand. History, Identity and Muse	
Plenary Speakers	12
Dr Ashutosh Kumar: Back to Homeland-Returnees Problems, 1916	
Professor Satish Chand : Modern slavery and conflicting interests- Evidence from Seasonal Agricultural Workers in Australia	12
Closing Speakers	13
Ravindra (Ravi) Dev: Our place in the world: Status of Girmitiyas of future prospects	
Professor Biman Prasad	14
Session Chairs	15
Dr Farzana Gounder: Master of Ceremony & Conference Convenor	15
Dr Shailendra Bahadur Singh : Chair of Session 1 <i>Legal, Business, Environment, Politics, Economics, Health, Migration, New</i>	
Indenture, Pacific Labour Scheme	15
Dr Sunil Kumar : Chair of Session 2 – <i>History, Legacy of Indenture of Construction of Identities</i>	
Dr Rajni Kaushal Chand: Chair of Session 3 – Language, Literature	2 &
Creatve Arts 3	16

Programme
Abstracts23
Aarshi Dua: Indian Migration to East Africa-Old and New forms of Indenture
Achal Ashna & Manisha: Strategies utilized by early migrants to adapt to psychological, social and linguistic changes24
Amba Pande: Women and Indenture: Revisiting Indian Discourses24
Amita Esther David: The Pandemic- Lessons from the past and the need to remember our loss
Anawaite Matadradra: Exploring Melanesian migrant communities- Case studies from Fiji & Samoa
Anisha Badal-Caussy: Literature of the 'Coupeuse'- Spatialising in Torabully's 'Coupeuses D'Azur'
Anjali Singh: Floating Identities- Twice Migrants of the Indenture Diaspora
Annapurna Devi Pandey : H1- B and H-4 Indian Immigrants to the United States- Gender Woes, Challenges and Suffering28
Annapurna Devi Pandey: One Step Forward, Two Steps Back- The Struggle for H-4 Visa Renewal during the Pandemic
Anshu Lal & Ashika Singh: The impact of migration on migrant women and girls during indenture and at present- A gender perspective30
Archana Tewari: Indian indentured system through the eyes of Totaram Sanadhya and Bechu
Asha Chand (Dr.): Museum as an agency for collective memory in Chutney Generations
Ashna Siwan & Prashneel Prashish Singh: The influence of labour migration in postcolonial literature
Ashutosh Kumar: Back to Homeland- Returnees Problems, 1916-1935.32

The Old & the New Indenture: Labour Practices and Human Rights, 9-11 Oct 2021	3 4	International Conference, Programme and Abstract Booklet

Baytoram Ramharack: Coolitude as an application to our understanding of the Indian girmitiya experience- Some notes33
Céline Ramsamy-Giancone : Indian immigrants in the French Reunion Island, social and religious adaptation (19th-early 20th century)33
Chandani Tiwari : Identity of Indian Diasporic Community in Mauritius- From Indentures to Heritage Resource34
Christopher Asipara: Malaitans on Levers Coconut Plantations, Russell Islands- "Labour experiences and legacies in the Colonial and the Post-colonial"
David Pradhan & Ravinesh Rohit Prasad: The Legal Geography of Labour and Climate Change in Fiji
David Welchman Gegeo : Early Europeans, Black-birders and the Social Construction of Malaita Savagery
Dawosing Jayganesh: The collective memory of the diasporic communities through Bhojpuri video songs
Doug Munro : K.L. Gillion and the Making of *Fiji's Indian Migrants* 37
Farzana Gounder : Cause and response to inequity in the indentured labour diaspora- A proposed framework for comparative analysis38
Geerjanandsingh Bissessur: Collective memory of Indentureship- The case of Mauritius
Gerard Gilles: They touch the pen
Henna Helvina Neerunjun: Environmentally-induced population displacements: an indentureship experience in Port-Louis, Mauritius
Ivy Handique: Legacy and Policies of Labour Migration from Ethiopia41
Jafreen Shifazia Khan: Unconscionable Indenture Contracts41
Jayshree Mungur-Medhi: The scope of Archaeology in the study of Indenture

4	International	Conference.	Programme	and	Abstract	Bookle

Jimmy Harmon: Unimagined identities in Mauritius42
Kamala Lakshmi Naiker (Dr.) & Dip Deepak Maharaj : The Burden of History in Postcolonial Literature
Krish Naidu: Identity discrimination and implications
Khemendra K. Kumar : My Twenty-One years in the Fiji Islands – A Review
Kumar Mahabir : Indentured labourers in coconut and rubber plantations in Trinidad in the Caribbean (1845-1917)45
Lijo Lal W & M S Jayakumar: Formation of Ethnic Identity of Malayalee diaspora in Canada
Lomarsh Roopnarine: Biography of two "indentured servants"47
M S Jayakumar & Vishnu V J: Rights at Wrong End- The Kafala System47
Makereta Pamela Bulukeinasiga: Restoring the Historical Remnants of Girmitya through Leisure Reading
Mansraj Ramphal: "Despotism tempered by sugar?"- The first-hand account of Joseph Beaumont, Chief Justice, of the oppression and hardships suffered by Indian indentured labourers in British Guiana, 1863-1868
Meliki Kuricava & Tasmeen Nisha Shah: Adopting to the home49
Meshal Manisha: Exploitation of Indentured Women Migrants in Fiji50
Mohammed Alim: Pacific Seasonal Labour Scheme50
Nalini Moodley Diar: Embodying the Syncretic- The quest for indigeneity through the art of Bharatha Natyam51
Nalini Naidu: Girmit History: The Significance of Museums52
Naren Prasad & Paokholal Haokip: Indentured Labourers in Fiji and La Reunion- A comparative analysis52
Neha Singh & Sushma Pandey: Proliferating religious and cultural solidarity by reciting Rama ka naam liye jaa, apna kaam kiye jaa-

The Old & the New Indenture: Labour Practices and Human Rights, 9-11 Oct 2021	5	6	International Conference, Programme and Abstract Booklet

	Understanding the presence of Ramayana as retention of Hindu tradition in Mauritius and Fiji	Sa
Nilesl	mni Devi & Ashika Pratap: What are the connections between mental wellbeing and the displacement and relocation of people through labour migration?	Sa Sa
Nirm	ala Balram: Valuing the Past for the Present and the Future: A Museum for the Girmitiyas of Fiji	Sa
Ouma	A Seebaluck: That Others May Live- The Epic Journey of Indian Indentured Labourers in Mauritius	Sa
Paok	holal Haokip: Lazaret and The Grande Chaloupe- Genesis of the quarantine system during the indentured period in the Indian Ocean region56	Se
Pawa	n Kumar Upadhyay: Understanding the terms Old Diaspora & New Diaspora57	Sh
Pravi	nd Kumar: The New Pacific Labour Scheme58	
Prim	nath Gooptar: The Bollywoodization of the Indian Diaspora- Identity and Hindi Films58	Sh
Rahu	l Krishna Raju: A Case for the Descendants of Fiji Indians – An International Legal Challenge59	Sh
Rajes	h Basu: Caught between Continents and Great Men: CF Andrews' Humanism and the issue of Indentured Indian Labour in early	Sh
	twentieth century Fiji	Su
Rave	ena Maharaj & Shely Salokshna: The connections between mental wellbeing, displacement, and the relocation of people through labour migration during indenture and present- A human phenomena62	Su
Ritu '	Tyagi : Post-Indenture Indian Diaspora and Gender- Rewriting Myths by Women Writers63	Su
S. Sin	gh Somra: Multidimensional Features of Indian Diaspora Migration63	Sw

6	International	Conference.	Programme	and	Abstract	Bookle
---	---------------	-------------	-----------	-----	----------	--------

ention of Hindu	Sanobar Haider: Indentured labour, India and Colonisation64
53 tions between	Satchidanand Seethanen & Naren Prasad: What has happened to les engagés in the Reunion Island?
eation of people	Satish Chand: Modern slavery and conflicting interests- Evidence from Seasonal Agricultural Workers in Australia
the Future: A55 burney of Indian	Satish Nand & Ravneet Reddy: What are Environmental, Political and Economic Challenges that Small-Island Nations Face in Relation to Labour Exploitation?
55 Genesis of the In the Indian Ocean	Satyendra Peerthum: An Examination of Returning Indian Immigrants and Indo-Mauritians, Circular Migration, Savings, and Remittances taken back to India, 1840-193067
56 Old Diaspora & New	Selvan Naidoo: Child Labour During the System of Indentured Labour to South Africa, 1860 to 1960
57 58	Shailesh Lal: Prompting the Past- Evoking an Actor's Perspective on Labour motivated Indo-Fijian Diaspora in Thomas' Plays69
an Diaspora- Identity	Shalima Mohammed: Past and present migrant labour exploitation- A psychological perspective
Fiji Indians – An 59	Sharnit Gosai, S. Kumar & A. Devi : Factors influencing remittances to Fiji from former Indo-Fijians in the United States70
len: CF Andrews' abour in early	Sheenal Siwagni Prasad & Sweta Swastika Devi: Labour Exploitation & Migration71
60 ons between mental	Sunil Kumar & R. Kumar: Population, Politics and Economic Wellbeing of Indo-Fijians71
eople through labour n phenomena62	Sunil Kumar, Manpreet Kaur & Avitesh Deepak: Do the Current Generation of Indo-Fijians Identify with their Girmit Heritage?72
er- Rewriting Myths63	Suvishna Suvandana Singh & Sailesh Narayan: How Does Labour Exploitation and Migration Affect Women Migrants' Agency?73
Diaspora Migration63	Sweeta Shiwangni Kumar, Deepika Chand & Sweeta Kumar: Labour Exploitation and Mental Health

The Old & the New Indenture	Labour Practices and Humai	n Riahts.	9-11 Oct 2021	-
The old a the new indentale	Labour Fractices and Hamai	, ragines,	J 11 OCC 2021	•

The Old & the New Indenture: Labour Practices and Human Rights, 9-11 Oct 2021 7	8 International Conference, Program
Vandana Vikashni Nath: Indo-Fijian Diasporic Identity and Representation in Postcolonial Indo-Fijian Literature	2021 Conference Organising
Vijay Mishra: V S Naipaul, 'A House for Mr Biswas' and the old Indian Plantation Diaspora	
Vijendra Prasad: Girmit History: The Significance of Museums77	
Vishnu Bisram: The Evil of Banning Bread and Roti in Guyana78	
Washni Warsha Kumar & Parvin Lata: The Role of Labour Migration in Shaping Postcolonial Literature	
Yatinkumar J. Teraiya: Abolishing Slavery of vulnerable Africans by Indian-Gujarati Traders- Identity and Humanity in Gunvantray Achary's novel Dariyalal	
Hindi Session81	
भागीरथी भानः नावुआ जिले की रामलीला का ढ़लता सूरज 81	
नरेश चन्दः फीजी में गिरमिटिया भारतीयों के लोक गीतों का विवेचनात्मक	
अध्ययन81	
सुभाषिनी लता कुमार : जोगिन्द्र सिंह कंवल के साहित्य में प्रवासी संवेदनाएं 82	
सरिता देवी चन्द : गिरमिट प्रथा के उन्मूलन में 'फिजी में मेरे इक्कीस वर्ष का योगदान '82	
सुनीता नारायण :फीजी के प्रवासी भारतीयों में अस्तित्व पहचान एवं घर की अवधारणा83	
Suklesh Bali: गिरमिटिया नारियों की उत्पीड़न84	
Vidya Singh: गिरमिटिया स्त्री सशक्तिकरण के विविध आयाम85	
Manisha Ramrakha: फीजी गिरमिट कालीन साहित्य एवं साहित्यकार85	
Subhash Muneshwar: गिरमिट गाथा, गिरमिट कथा86	
Satya Dutt: Hindi Language Advocacy and Promotion87	
Salvin Kumar: Fiji-Baat (book launch)	

_			- ,	
8	International	Conterence.	Programme and	Abstract Booklet

202	1 (Conference	Organising	Committee	39
-----	-----	------------	-------------------	-----------	----

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE - The Old and the New Indenture: Labour Practices and Human Rights 9 – 11 October, 2021

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Main registration link: https://events.zoom.us/eo/ADs0EqizH-O62 FH00oQ-u BBl6qIIIGCRc2XthcNVUEMR3UAllx31WSIE0DahmZvqL7erM

Registration for Day

1 - https://events.zoom.us/e/view/Kgp3aDhJTD2wYPJTD0gQ8Q

Registration for Day 2

- https://events.zoom.us/e/view/BoHx6w9hRoGibIqK88KUEA

Registration for Day 3 - https://events.zoom.us/e/view/A-U-pagcRzONMun30Z9GcA

Official Opening: Hon. Premila Kumar, Minister for Education, Heritage & Arts, Government of Fiii.

The Official Opening of the Conference will be by the Hon. Minister for Education, Heritage & Arts of Fiji, Mrs. Pemila Kumar.

Hon. Kumar was appointed the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts in August this year. She continues to be the Minister for



Local Government. Prior to this she was been the Minister for Industry, Trade & Tourism; Minister for Local Government and Minister for Housing & Community Development. Hon. Kumar's diverse professional life has spanned across industries and shaped her perspective, one that is driven by both the empowerment and protection of ordinary Fijians. Starting her career as a teacher, she quickly rose through the ranks of the education sector before transitioning to policy, serving as a Government environmental advocate, and later, an investment manager at Fiji Islands Trade & Investment Bureau, currently known as Investment Fiji. She has served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Consumer Council of Fiji, a leadership role that she held for over 12 years — rightfully earning her the reputation of a staunch consumer advocate throughout Fiji and the Pacific. During her tenure she transformed the Council into a high-profile powerhouse for consumer rights. Minister Kumar was honoured with the Executive Woman of the Year Award in 2015 by Women in Business, and the Fiji Times named her Most Influential Woman of the Year in 2010. She has also served on various Boards and Committees. She is married and has three Children.

Keynote Address: Sir Anand Satyanand. History, Identity and Museums

The keynote address will be delivered by the well-known New Zealander, Sir Anand Satyanand, a person who has maintained a number of interests to do with Fiji and its history, and whose grandparents were Fiji girmitya.

Sir Anand Satyanand is a former lawyer, judge and ombudsman who served as New Zealand's 19th Governor-General from 2006 until 2011. His grandparents migrated from India to Fiji, and his parents from Fiji to New Zealand. He grew up and was educated in Auckland, completing a law degree in 1970. After a dozen years in law practice, he was appointed to judicial office working as a District Court Judge for more than a decade beginning in the 1980s with a specialist warrant for criminal jury trials There then followed a number of public



appointments such as two terms as a Parliamentary Ombudsman before being invited to take up the Governor-General role. Since completion of that he has continued a range of activities internationally as well as in New Zealand. He chaired the Commonwealth Foundation, the people's organisation counterpart of the Commonwealth Secretariat, for four years, and has a continuing role on the International Advisory Committee of Transparency International. He has throughout his life made and maintained a number of personal and professional contacts in Fiji. Currently, he is Chancellor of the University of Waikato and President of the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs. He is married to Lady Susan Satyanand and has three children and five grandchildren.

In his Keynote address, Sir Satyanand will refer to the challenge for people today whether living in Fiji or in other countries, 100 years after the girmit ended, to record and be connected with the experiences of their forebears. He will refer to ways in which that might be done and to some of the issues that might bear resolving in creating a Museum, or a kind of Museum. Sir Anand has agreed to become a Patron of the Global Girmit Institute's Museum project.

Plenary Speakers

Dr Ashutosh Kumar: Back to Homeland-Returnees Problems, 1916-1935

Dr. Kumar is Associate Professor of History at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India and Chairman of Centre for Alternative Studies in Social Sciences (CASSS), New Delhi. He was fellow at the University of Leeds, United Kingdom, the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), New Delhi,



the Centre for the Study of Slavery, Resistance and Abolition at Yale University and at Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla. His most recent publications include *Coolies of the Empire: Indentured Indians in the Sugar Colonies, 1830-1920'*, Cambridge University Press, 2017; 'The Indian Labour Diaspora' (authored with Professor Crispin Bates), Edinburgh University Press, 2017; Re-visiting the First World War: Indian Soldiers in the Global Conflict (with Claude Markovits), Routledge 2020. His book 'Girmitiya Indians: Colonialism and Global Indian Diaspora' is forthcoming from Routledge.

Professor Satish Chand: Modern slavery and conflicting interests- Evidence from Seasonal Agricultural Workers in Australia

Prof. Chand is Professor of Finance in the School of Business at the University of New South Wales and based at the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra. He is also an Ad-



junct Professor at the Crawford School of Economics and Government at the Australian National University. His research interests include labour migration, fragile states, and the challenges of development. For the past five years, Satish has been researching the nexus between defence and development, drawing on the experiences of external peacekeeping in Bougainville (PNG), East Timor, Liberia, Mozambique, and the Solomon Islands. This research has ramifications for pacification strategies in fragile states.

Closing Speakers

Ravindra (Ravi) Dev: Our place in the world: Status of Girmitiyas and future prospects

My talk will focus on what is meant by the "our" of the title - Girmitiyas - and relate it to the world in all its complexities, social, political cultural etc - in which we have found ourselves. It has been observed that "men make their their histories but not in circumstances of their making." It behooves us to understand those circumstances to better equip ourselves to im-



prove our prospects. I will begin with the inaugural 1989 "Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin" of which I was the Co-Chair on the "Conference on Political Participation". It brought together Indians of all stripes and nationalities under the PIO label - scholars, businessmen, cultural activists and political figures to discuss our status and prospects. I will examine events since then within the concept of "coloniality of power" as a world system, ethnic relations/conflict within our nation states related to our "Indian" identity at the individual and group levels leading to questions of our legitimacy to hold power. I will conclude with the impact on these variables by a rising India that is now confidently defining itself as "Bharat" and brighter prospects for Girmitiyas. The responsibilities of intellectuals and academics will be emphasized

About Ravi Dev: 4th Generation Girmitiya. BSc Econs, JD,
Member of NY Bar; Corporate Exec (NYC) 1975-1990.
Returned to Guyana as Hindu activist 1991.
Formed "RISE, ORGANISE AND RALLY (ROAR) Guyana Movement in
2000 after anti-Indian Riot.
Elected to Parliament 2001-2006
Newspaper columnist since 1989.
Media Consultant - Guyana Times Media Group.
Sanghachalak: Hindus for Selfless Service

Professor Biman Prasad



Professor Prasad is a highly recognised international scholar in the Asia Pacific, contributing significantly to the debates on social and economic development issues in the region. He has been a Dean of the Business and Economics Faculty at the University of the South Pacific. He is currently a Member of Parliament and Parliamentary Leader of the Opposition National Federation Party in Fiji, His research interests include sustainable and inclusive economic development, food security and agricultural development, value chains, micro-businesses, gender and development, governance in development contexts, institutional constraints and organisational development, poverty, economic

development and environmental sustainability (e.g. climate change, zonal development, renewable energy), social capital, and a range of social development issues. He has published extensively on these issues in academic peer reviewed papers. Until recently he was Director, Fiji Institute of Applied Studies and Professor Prasad is Associate Editor of the Journal of Fijian Studies and was the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Pacific Studies.

Prof Prasad has undertaken research and consultancy projects for international organisations such as the Asian Development Bank, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Commonwealth Local Government Forum, Food and Agricultural Organisation, the World Trade Organisation, Dept. of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and governments in the Pacific region. Prof Prasad travelled extensively around the world to present keynote papers at many international conferences over the last several years. He has been a visiting Professor at Kagoshima University in Japan, Jawaharlal Nehru University in Indian and at Otago University in New Zealand. Professor Prasad has taught the WTO Regional Trade Policy Course for the Asia-Pacific region at the University of Hong Kong, the National University of Singapore, and the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade. He is an adjunct professor at a number of University in India. He was a Steering Committee member Cook University, Griffith University and Punjabi University in India. He was a Steering Committee member of the AusAID report on the Pacific for 2009 and 2010. He has been a member of key international networks such as Chair of Oceania Development Network and member of Global Development Networks and Pacific Research Network. He is currently a board member of the Global Development Network.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics and Economics and Graduate Certificate in Education from the University of the South, He also holds a Master of Commerce from the University of New South Wales and Doctor of Philosophy in economics from the University of Queensland.

Dr Farzana Gounder: Master of Ceremony & Conference Convenor

Dr. Gounder is a linguist and Deputy Head of School (Research) at IPU New Zealand Tertiary Institute. She is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Fiji's JPD Law School. Her research interests include oral narratives of indenture and their role in collective memory formation, and discourses on health, human security and migration. She is the author of Indentured Identities: Resistance and Accommodation in Plantation-Era Fiji (2011), and co-editor of Women, Gender, and the Legacy of Slavery and Indenture (2020), Social Aspects of Health, Medicine, and Disease in the Colonial and Post-Colonial Era (2020), and Collective Memory, Identity, and the Legacies of Slavery and Indentured Labour (2021). With Maurits



S. Hassankhan, she is co-editor of a ten volume series on Legacies of Slavery and Indentured Labour, published by Manohar and Routledge. Dr Gounder is also a member of the International Indentured Labour Route Project.

Email: fgounder@ipu.ac.nz

Dr Shailendra Bahadur Singh: Chair of

Session 1 Legal, Business, Environment, Politics, Economics, Health, Migration, New Indenture, Pacific Labour Scheme

Dr. Singh Bahadur Singh is Associate Professor of Pacific Journalism at the University of the South Pacific (USP), & Head of USP Journalism Department. He has written widely on Pacific media in relation to state and society, both as a journalist and as an academic. He graduated with a PhD from the University of Queensland in 2015. Before academia, Shailendra was editor of *The Review; Pacific Business magazine;* content editor of *Fijilive.com*; asso-



ciate editor of *Daily Post*; and *Inter Press Service correspondent*. Dr Singh is the first PhD holder from the Pacific region to teach journalism at USP, and the first from the Pacific to lead the USP Journalism Programme.

Dr Sunil Kumar: Chair of Session 2 – *History, Legacy of Indenture & Construction of Identities*



Dr. Kumar is Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Fiji, and the Honorary Director of Fiji Institute of Applied Studies. Dr. Kumar specialises in Poverty Analysis, Small and Medium Enterprises, National Accounting Statistics and Development issues in general. He has vast experience in tertiary teaching and research with major interests in social, political and Girmitiya identity issues. He has published widely and is associated with a number of academic and social organizations in Fiji.

Dr Rajni Kaushal Chand: Chair of Session 3 – *Language, Literature & Creatve Arts* 3

Dr. Rajni Kaushal Chand is the Director for the Centre for Flexible Learning and a Senior Lecturer at the University of the South Pacific. Her areas of expertise are Open and Distance Learning (ODL), Applied Linguistics and Indian Diaspora. She has presented and published widely in these areas.

Dr Chand is a recipient of numerous honours, including VC's Excellence in Teaching Award at USP, the Australian Leadership Award, and a Commemorative Medal at Fiji's 50th Anniversary of Independence.



She has recently been appointed a mentor in the COL's CommonwealthWise-Women mentoring programme. She is the Oceania Focal Point for International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE) Quality Network.

Programme

NOTES:

I. Kevs to Time Zones:

- A= Fiji Time. NZ:+1 hr; Aust: -2hrs for East Coast; 4 hrs for West
- B= Caribbean/East coast USA. For Suriname, add one hour.
- C= India.
- D= Mauritius & Reunion / Africa & Europe, shown as, for example, 12.30am/10.30pm, where 12.30am is the time in Mauritius & Reunion Island, while 10.30pm is the time in South Africa & Europe.

II. Paper Order:

The listing here has been done on the basis of best and most suitable times for presenters from different time zones. Presenters and session chairs can discuss on re-arranging the order on the basis of mutual convenience.

III. Recordings:

We encourage all presenters to get their presentations recorded and submitted to our technical team, which will put them online 48 hours prior to the session. We encourage participants to view the recordings. In presentations, we encourage presenters to summarise their main points, and allow for considerable time for discussion of their papers.

IV. Repeats:

All presentations and sessions would be recorded and be available for repeat viewing both, in the zoom lobby, as well as the Global Girmit utube channel and the Global Girmit facebook page.

9 October 2021 (Fiji Time)	Α	В	С	D
Official Opening: Hon Premila Kumar, Min- ister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Government of Fiji Keynote Address: Sir Anand Satyanand Master of Ceremony: Dr. Farzana Gounder	8.30am- 10.00am	4.30pm (8 Oct)	2am (8 oct),	12.30am/ 10.30pm (8 oct),

9 October 2021 (Fiji Time)		Α	В	С	D		
Session 1: Legal, Business, Environment, Politics, Economics, Health, Migration, New Indenture, Pacific Labour Scheme (Chair: Dr. Shailendra Singh)							
Sunil Kumar & R Kumar	Fiji						
Farzana Gounder	NZ						
Nileshni Devi & Ashika Pratap	Fiji	10.00am	6.00pm	3.30am	2.00am/midnte		
Sheenal S. Prasad & Sweta S. Devi	Fiji	to	8.30pm	to	to		
Sweeta S.Kumar, D. Chand, S Kumar	Fiji	12.30pm	(8 Oct)	6.00am	4.30am/2.30am		
Raveena Maharaj & Shely Salokshna	Fiji		(0.004)				
General Discussion & Adjournment							
Session 2: History, Legacy of Indenture & Construction of Identities (Chair: Dr. Sunil Kumar)							
Vishnu Bisram	NY			to	4.30am/2.30am to 7.20am/5.20am		
Achal Ashna & Manisha	Fiji	1					
Meliki Kuricava& Tasmeen Nisha Shah	Fiji						
Mansraj Ramphal	T&T						
Makereta Pamela Bulukeinasiga	Fiji	3 20nm	to 11 20nm				
Lomarsh Roopnarine	US	0.20pm	11.200111		7.20411/0.20411		
Sunil Kumar, Manpreet Kaur, A. Deepak	Fiji						
General Discussion & Adjournment							
Session 3: Language, Literature &		ative Art	s (Chair	: Dr. Ra	jni K. Chand)		
Kamala L. Naiker (Dr) & Dip D. Maharaj	Fiji						
Vandana Vikashni Nath	Fiji						
Ashna Siwan & Prashneel P. Singh	Fiji	3.30pm	11.30pm	9.00am	7.30am/ 5.30am		
Washni Warsha Kumar & Parvin Lata	Fiji	to	То	to	to		
Shailesh Lal	Fiji	6.45pm	2.45am	12.15am	10.45am/8.45am		
Neha Singh & Sushma Pandey	Ind						
Ritu Tyagi	Ind						
General Discussion & Adjournment							

The Old & the New Indenture: Labour Practices and Human Rights, 9-11 Oct 2021 19

9 October 2021 (Fiji Time)		Α	В	C	D		
Session 2: History, Legacy of Inc	Session 2: History, Legacy of Indenture & Construction of Identities c/-						
Paokholal Haokip	Ind						
Naren Prasad & Paokholal Haokip	E/In						
Rajesh Basu	Ind	7.00pm	3am	12.30pm	11am/9am		
Chandani Tiwari	Ind	То	То	To	То		
Pawan Kumar Upadhyay	Ind	10.00pm	6.00am	3.30pm	2pm/12pm		
Ouma Seebaluck	MRI						
General Discussion & Adjournment							
Plenary: Ashutosh Kumar	Ind	10.00pm	6.00am	3.30pm	2pm/12noon		
Session 2: History, Legacy of Inc	Session 2: History, Legacy of Indenture & Construction of Identities c/-						
Satyendra Peerthum	MRI	10.45pm	6.45am	4.15pm	2.45pm/12.45pm		
Khemendra K. Kumar	Fiji	То	То	То	То		
Archana Tewari	Ind	12.00am	8.45am	6.00pm	4.30pm/2.30pm		
General Discussion & Adjournment							
Session 3: Language	e, Lit	erature 8	& Creati	ve Arts			
Primnath Gooptar	T&T						
Vijay Mishra	Aus						
Yatinkumar J. Teraiya	Ind	00.00am	8.30am	6.00pm	4.30pm/2.30pm		
Anisha Badal-Caussy	MRI	То	to	to	to		
Dawosing Jayganesh	MRI	3.30am	11.30am	9.00pm	7.30pm/5.30pm		
Nalini Moodley Diar	SA						
General Discussion & Adjournment							

20 International Conference, Programme and Abstract Booklet

Sunday 10 Oct (Fiji Time)							
		Α	В	С	D		
Plenary: Satish Chand	Aust	8.30am	4.30pm (9 Oct)	2.00am	12.30am/10.30p m(9 oct),		
Session 2: History, Legacy of Ind	lentu	ıre & Coı	nstructi	on of Id	entities c/-		
Vijendra Prasad	Aus		5.30pm				
Nirmala Balram	NZ						
Asha Chand (Dr.)	Aus	9.30am		3.00am	1.30am/11.30pm		
Nalini Naidu	Aus	То		to	to		
Doug Munro	NZ	12.00pm	(8 Oct)	5.30am	4.00am/2.00am		
Baytoram Ramharack	NY	1					
General Discussion & Adjournment							
Session 1: Legal, Business, Envir	onm	ent, Poli	tics, Ec	onomic	s, Health, Mi-		
gration, New Indentu	ıre, F	Pacific L	abour S	cheme			
Shalima Mohammed	TT			to			
Kumar Mahabir	T&T						
Mohammed Alim	Fiji				5.00 10.00		
Pravind Kumar	Aust	1.00pm to			5.00am/3.00am		
Jafreen Shifazia Khan	Fiji	1			to 8 00am/6 00am		
Annapurna Devi Pandey	Calif	1.00piii	12.000111		0.00411/0.0041		
M S Jayakumar & Vishnu V J	Ind						
General Discussion & Adjournment			1.30pm 2.00				
Session 1: Legal, Business, Envir					s, Health, Mi-		
gration, New Indentu	_	Pacific La	abour S	cheme			
Anshu Lal & Ashika Singh	Fiji						
Suvishna S. Singh & Sailesh Narayan	Fiji						
Meshal Manisha	Fiji	1 2000	10 2000	10.000	0 20am/6 20am		
Amba Pande	Ind	4.30pm To	1	То	To		
Ravinesh R. Prasad & David Pradhan	Fj/In	7.30pm	_		11.30am/9.30am		
Henna Helvina Neerunjun	MRI	<u> </u>					
Satish Nand & Ravneet Reddy	Fiji						
General Discussion & Adjournment							

		Α	В	С	D
Session 3:	Par	allel Ses	sion		•
भागीरथी भान	Fiji				
नरेश चन्द	Fiji				
S. Muneshwar	Aus				
सुभाषिनी लता कुमार	Fiji				
सरिता देवी चन्द	Fiji		40.00	40.00	
सुनीता नारायण	Fiji	4.30pm To	12.30am to	10.00am	8.30am/6.30am to
Manisha Ramrakha	Fiji	7.30pm			11.30am/9.30am
Suklesh Bali	Fiji				
Vidya Singh	Fiji				
Satya Dutt	NZ				
Salvin Kumar	Aus				
General Discussion & Closure					
Session 2: History, Legacy of I	nder	nture & C	Constru	ction of	Identities
Sanobar Haider	Ind				
Lijo Lal W & M S Jayakumar	Ind				
Geerjanandsingh Bissessur	MRI				
Jayshree Mungur-Medhi	MRI	7.30pm	3.30am	1.00pm	11.30am/9.30am
Jimmy Harmon	MRI	To	to	to	to
Céline Ramsamy-Giancone	Rén	10.50pm	6.50am	4.20pm	2.50pm/12.50pm
Satchidanand Seethanen &	Ren				
Naren Prasad	/E				
General Discussion & Adjournment		D :			
Session 1: L	egai Ind	, Busine	ss, etc		
Ivy Handique Aarshi Dua	Ind				
S. Singh Somra		40.50	0.50	4.00	0.50 //0.50
Selvan Naidoo	Ind SA	10.50pm To	6.50am to	4.20pm to	2.50pm/12.50pm to
Amita Esther David	Ind	1.30am			5.30pm/3.30pm
Gerard Gilles	Rén				
General Discussion & Adjournment	itell				
General Discussion & Aujournment	<u> </u>				

Monday 11 Oct (Fiji Time)							
		Α	В	С	D		
Session 1: Legal, Business, Enviro					s, Health, Mi-		
gration, New Indentu	re, F	Pacific La	abour S	cheme			
Annapurna Devi Pandey	Calif						
Anawaite Matadradra	Fiji						
Christopher Asipara	SI	7.30am	3.30pm	1.00am	11.30pm/9.30pm		
David Welchman Gegeo	SI	То	to	To	То		
Sharnit Gosai, S Kumar & A Devi	Fiji	10.15am	6.15pm	3.45am	2.15am/12.15am		
Gerard Gilles (rec)	Ren						
General Discussion & Session Closure							
Session 2: History, Legacy of In	nder	iture & C	onstruc	ction of	Identities		
Anjali Singh	Ind						
Krish Naidu	NZ	10.30am To	6.30pm	4.00am	2.30am/12.30am to		
Rahul Krishna Raju	Aus	12.00pm			4.00am/2.00am		
General Discussion & Session Closure		oop		0.000			
Session 4: C	onc	luding S	ession				
Ravi Dev: Future Directions							
Indenture Data Base Presentation		12.00pm	8.00pm	5.30am	4.00am/2.00am		
Launch of Journal: <i>Indenture Papers</i>		to	to	to	to		
Conference Closing: Prof. Biman C. Pras	sad	2pm	10.00pm	7.30am	6.00am/4.00am		
Concluding Remarks: Farzana Gounder							
Session 4: Concluding (Repeat)							
Ravi Dev: Future Directions							
Indenture Data Base Presentation		6.00pm to	to	to	10.00am/8.00am to		
Launch of Journal: Indenture Papers							
Conference Closing Prof. Biman C. Pras	ad	8.00pm	400am	1.30pm	12pm/10.00am		
Concluding Remarks: Farzana Gounder							

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